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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,302	03/30/2001	Gregory Truitt	65745-001	6852

25203 7590 01/21/2005

NATIONAL IP RIGHTS CENTER, LLC
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EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,302

Applicant(s)

TRUITT ET AL.

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a non-final, first office action on the merits. Claims 1-2 are pending.

Specification

2. The use of the trademarks, such as NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR®, has been noted in this application. Trademarks should be capitalized wherever they appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner that might adversely affect their validity as trademarks. Therefore, examiner respectfully requests that Applicant correct the presentation of trademarks in the specification where they occur.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by AllMeetings (www.allmeetings.com).

4. As per claim 1, AllMeetings teaches an apparatus for managing communications between an event site and prospective planner comprising:

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a control unit for establishing a request generated by a planner relating to a desire for event services (See at least page 1, page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, page 9, page 10, section 1, which discloses a request generated by a planner);

means for assisting a client in formulating a request for proposal to be distributed to event sites throughout the system (See at least page 1, page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, pages 9-10, page 12 section 1, page 22, sections 2-3, disclosing a request being formulated);

means for distributing the request for proposal to said event sites (See at least page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, page 9, page 10, section 1, page 11, section 1, page 23, section 1, and page 26, which discusses distributing the RFP); and

means for receiving bids from event sites who receive the request for proposal (See at least page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, page 9, page 10, section 1, page 11, section 1, page 23, section 1, and page 26, wherein information is received from event sites regarding costs of sites).

5. As per claim 2, AllMeetings teaches an event site matching apparatus for managing communications between an event site and a prospective planner seeking to schedule an event:

a control unit for receiving a request from a prospective planner relating to desired event services (See at least page 1, page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, page 9, page 10, section 1, which discloses a request generated by a planner);

means for assisting the prospective client in formulating a request for proposal to be formatted and distributed throughout a network (See at least page 1, page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, pages 9-10, page 12 section 1, page 22, sections 2-3, disclosing a request being formulated);

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means for distributing the request for proposal throughout a network to a plurality of event sites (See at least page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, page 9, page 10, section 1, page 11, section 1, page 23, section 1, and page 26, which discusses distributing the RFP);

means for event sites to respond to the request for proposal with a bid (See page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, page 9, page 10, section 1, page 11, section 1, page 23, section 1, and page 26, wherein information is received from sites regarding costs of sites); and

means for the prospective planner to request additional information from event site (See at least page 3, section 1, page 4, page 5, section 1, pages 9-11, page 22, section 2, page 23, section 1, and page 26, wherein information is requested from an event site).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bingham et al. (U.S. 6,324,517) discloses an automated meeting site selection tool.

Krasnick et al. (U.S. 2002/0032592) teaches a meeting planning program that includes online RFPs.

Hall ("AJENIS: Making the Connection") discloses an automated system to build specifications for a meeting.

"Ajenis Meets New Internet Standards" (*Inside Interactive Travel*) discloses an Internet based application that allows a user to at least contact hotels and venues.

Screenshots of PlanSoft (www.plansoft.com) discloses an online planning tool.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (703) 305-3882.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gwd
bvd

January 11, 2005

Susanna Diaz
SUSANNA M. DIAZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 3623